



NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2003

El Paso Agents apprehend wanted felon from Florida

Career criminal identified through immigration, criminal background records

A wanted felon from Dade County, Florida, was arrested by El Paso Border Patrol Agents over the weekend at a bus station and will be held in El Paso pending extradition to that state to face third-degree felony charges.

The arrest of Kevin Dwight McKenzie, a 27-year-old Jamaican national, resulted from a bus check operation in El Paso. When approached by agents, the subject claimed to be a U.S. Citizen born in Jamaica. He had no documentation to substantiate his legal status in the U.S. Subsequent records checks through the INS data base system IDENT/ENFORCE revealed the subject had entered the country in 1997, and was in fact illegally in the U.S.

The technology, INS Automated Biometric Identification System known as IDENT, is designed to provide a rapid identification of individuals by electronically comparing a live-scanned fingerprint against a previously digitally captured or scanned fingerprint. The right and left index fingerprints are scanned and transmitted electronically to a centralized biometric database for query. The IDENT records are divided into two categories: persons who are aggravated felons, suspected narcotics or alien smugglers, national security risks or otherwise thought to be a risk to the officer; and INS encounters including previously intercepted or removed persons from the country for lesser violations.

Additional criminal screening revealed the subject was in violation of probation and being sought in connection with a Florida warrant for aggravated assault with a weapon in Dade County. Records also showed the subject had an extensive criminal background dating back to 1999, including: marijuana possession, malicious punishment of a child (felony) in which he was convicted to serve three years in prison, attempted felony murder, and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

The subject was turned over to the El Paso Police Department and booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility pending extradition to Dade County, Florida.

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